

In the claims, cancel claims 1-23. Add claims 24-45.

Sub 1 *Q2* --- 24. A method of decreasing the production of IgE in a subject exposed to a dust mite allergen, the method comprising:
administering to a subject a non-pathogenic, Gram-positive bacterium that comprises (i) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a dust mite allergen and (ii) a promoter operably linked to the nucleotide sequence; and
expressing the allergen in the subject in an amount sufficient to suppress allergen-specific IgE production in the subject upon subsequent exposure to the allergen.

25. The method of claim 24 in which the bacterium is of the genus *Lactobacillus*, *Streptococcus*, or *Bifidobacterium*.

26. The method of claim 25 in which the bacterium of the genus *Lactobacillus*.

27. The method of claim 26 in which the bacterium is *Lactobacillus acidophilus*.

28. The method of claim 24 in which the dust mite allergen is an allergen of *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*, *D. farinae*, *D. microceras*, *Tyrophagus putrescentiae*, *Lepidoglyphus domesticus*, *L. destructor*, *Acarus siro*, *Euroglyphus maynei*, or *Biomia tropicali*.

29. The method of claim 28 in which the dust mite allergen is an allergen of *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein the allergen is a protein allergen.

31. The method of claim 24, wherein the allergen is a Der p 5 allergen.

32. The method of claim 29 in which the allergen is Der p 5.

33. The method of claim of claim 24, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

34. The method of claim 24, wherein the allergen is administered orally.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the allergen is administered as a yogurt.

36. A method of decreasing the production of IgE in a subject exposed to a dust mite allergen, the method comprising:

administering to a subject a lactic acid bacterium that expresses a dust mite allergen; and
expressing the allergen in the subject in an amount sufficient to suppress allergen-specific
IgE production in the subject upon subsequent exposure to the allergen.

37. The method of claim 36 in which the dust mite allergen is an allergen of
Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus, *D. farinae*, *D. microceras*, *Tyrophagus putrescentiae*,
Lepidoglyphus domesticus, *L. destructor*, *Acarus siro*, *Euroglyphus maynei*, or *Biomia tropicali*.

38. The method of claim 36 in which the dust mite allergen is an allergen of dust mite of
Dermatophagoides genus.

39. The method of claim 36 in which the bacterium is of the *Lactobacillus* genus.

40. The method of claim 36 in which the bacterium is administered orally.

41. The method of claim 40 in which the bacterium is administered as a yogurt
composition.

42. The method of claim 36 in which the subject is a human subject.

Sub 3 43. A method of decreasing the production of IgE in a subject exposed to an aeroallergen allergen, the method comprising:

administering to a subject a non-pathogenic, Gram-positive bacterium that comprises (i) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an aeroallergen and (ii) a promoter operably linked to the nucleotide sequence; and

expressing the aeroallergen in the subject in an amount sufficient to suppress aeroallergen-specific IgE production in the subject upon subsequent exposure to the aeroallergen.

44. A method of relieving bronchopulmonary congestion in a subject exposed to a dust mite allergen, the method comprising:

Administering to a subject a lactic acid bacterium that expresses a dust mite allergen; and
expressing the allergen in the subject in an amount sufficient to relieve bronchopulmonary congestion in the subject upon subsequent exposure to the dust mite allergen.

45. The method of claim 44 in which the bacterium is of the *Lactobacillus* genus, and the dust mite allergen is *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*. --